

5.4.3 Excavation

After the completion of pile driving, the strain gages were connected to the dataloggers. The dataloggers and excess cabling were secured in weather resistant (traffic signal) boxes. The dataloggers were set to take readings continuously every one minute until the load test was complete. Two sets of baseline inclinometer readings were taken. Notably, heavy rains due to the remnants of Tropical Storm Ophelia delayed the start of excavation by nearly two weeks. The excavation process proceeded as follows:

- **Monday October 17, 2005** ~ Excavation began early morning but stopped at 11:00am after excavating one quarter of the first 4 ft. lift, due to a hydraulic failure. Excavation resumed in the afternoon to bring the total progress on the lift to about 1/3.
- **Tuesday October 18, 2005** ~ First lift (4 ft.) was completed by 11:00am. The second lift started around 2:00pm.
- **Wednesday October 19, 2005** ~ Excavation for the second lift was resumed in the morning and was complete by noon. The third excavation lift was started around 3:00pm.
- **Thursday October 20, 2005** ~ Third layer (12 ft.) was completed by 3:00pm..
- **Friday October 21, 2005** ~ Fourth excavation step (16 ft.) began at 7:30am and was completed at 3:00pm.
- **Wednesday October 26, 2005** ~ Excavation of final 4 ft. lift (20ft) was started and finished at 2:00pm.
- **Thursday October 27, 2005** ~ 20 ft. lift readings were taken in the morning.